



Date	August 9, 2010
Title	WDC Quarterly Report
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HIGHLIGHTS May 14 – August 12, 2010

1. The 2010 WDC Forum will focus on healthcare workforce development. The planning group is investigating Skill Panels (used very successfully in Washington State) as a way to address pressing workforce issues in this sector. The forum will focus on four sector of Healthcare: 1) Nursing; 2) Health Care IT; 3) Technical Disciplines; and 4) Long term Care. There is a tentative date of October 8 for the Forum.
2. The WDC has received approval from the US Department of Labor for the WIA State Plan Modification Extension (through PY 2010), the WIA Performance Measures approved at the last meeting, and five waivers (to be discussed in the meeting).
3. The State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”) statewide grant is progressing. Contract language has been approved and the majority of contracts are in final review for signing. Start date has tentatively been set for September 1, 2010. Incumbent training will begin shortly, primarily in the trades to upgrade the green skills of workers and managers.
4. The WDC has secured \$655,000 College Access Challenge Grant from The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (“DBEDT”). The grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Staff is currently working up a budget and Request for Proposal (“RFP”) to develop a college access web portal that will support students, adult learners and parents for entering and succeeding in post secondary education. The project will analyze different portals already in use by the DLIR and UH with the goal of one comprehensive state supported system.
5. Member Carl Hinson, if approved, is replacing Gregg Yamanaka on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (“CEDS”) as the representative from WDC. The CEDS report prepares the state for funding from the Economic Development Administration of the US Department of Commerce by identifying industry clusters that provide economic competitive advantages, and strategies and infrastructure projects to support and strengthen those clusters.
6. WDC staff have continued to submit grant applications during this quarter. The first is the Healthcare Workforce Planning Grant released from the Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”) to help states plan their healthcare workforce in anticipation of the Affordable Care Act, which will be fully implemented in 2014. A primary goal of the administration is to increase the

number of primary care providers, and Hawaii is already in a shortage situation regarding primary care physicians (internists, family practice, general practitioner, and pediatrics).

7. The second grant application is for Health Profession Opportunity Grants for TANF and Other Low Income Persons,” also from the DHHS. WDC staff worked with DHS staff who administer TANF funding (Benefits Employment Support Services) to develop the proposal, which if funded will train for high-demand occupations in all counties.
8. Staffer Bill Pierpont and wife Michiko are new parents! Bill and his family will be moving soon to Winnipeg, where Michiko will play the French horn in the symphony. We welcome a new staff member, Maile Horita who worked on the grants applications and will help in implementation of the SESP grant.
9. The WDC office hosted a number of interns this summer thanks to the TANF-funded Summer Youth Employment Opportunities, which is administered by WDD. Two of our interns, Zack Fraser and Nick Ogata are in college (Evergreen and Chaminade), and Thaya Chun is starting Kapiolani Community College next semester.
10. James Hardway attended a “Complete College America” (“CCA”) conference in Nashville in June. Hawaii is one of 17 in the Alliance of States seeking to increase the attendance of college-goers and reduce the remediation required for the 41% of students who start college unprepared for appropriate college-level work.
11. The WDC is represented on the Project Hoomohala (“PH”) Governing Council by Anna Powell, who recently attended a Georgetown Training Institutes Conference in Washington DC (funded by the university-based project). PH is a transition program for youth with moderate behavioral and emotional problems and is in its last year of federal funding. One major take-away is that federal departments are being encouraged to work together, and that collaboration is being directed at the state level as well. This strategy should help with many workforce development programs, which often cross departmental lines.